

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W

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R 221430Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL PALERMO

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1683

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PALERMO CISL MAN

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. LO MONACO, CISL, WHO CAME TO THE CONSULATE AT HIS REQUEST. PARTICIPANTS: PIETRO LO MONACO, CISL PALERMO PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FOR THE SETTORE OSPEDALIERI; MICHELE CALDERONE, POLITICAL SPECIALIST, AMCONGEN, PALERMO; PLACE AND DATE - AMCONGEN, JANUARY 21, 1976.
2. THE DC WILL LOSE THE ELECTIONS IN SICILY, BE IT A GENERAL OR REGIONAL BALLOTING. THE CISL OF SICILY IS IN DISARRAY. IT IS INFILTRATED WITH LEFTIST EXTRAPARLAMENTARIANS, PRO-COMMUNISTS, AND PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO SELL THE UNION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, NAMELY THE CGIL. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY COORDINATION BETWEEN

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THE DC AND CISL.

3. MOST OF THE YOUNG DOCTORS COMING OUT OF MEDICAL SCHOOL ALREADY BELONG TO THE PCI, WHICH BY PARTY STATUTE ENLISTS THEM IN THE RANKS OF THE CGIL. THEY RECEIVE STRONG IDEOLOGICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM THE PARTY AND ARE MOTIVATED BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE A WINNING CAUSE.

4. SICILIAN CISL WORKERS ARE FRUSTRATED. THE STORTI/SCALIA FEUD

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IS PERCEIVED AS A SCRAMBLE FOR THE CHAIR. WIDESPREAD AMONG CISL

WORKERS IS THE NEED FOR JUSTICE, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE FEELING THAT ONLY PCI CAN PROVIDE THEM. A LOT OF THEM WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO VOTE FOR A TRULY DEMOCRATIC PARTY LIKE THE PRI WHICH HAS GAINED A LOT OF RESPECT IN SICILY FOR ITS RECORD IN THE MORO GOVERNMENT, BUT IT IS CONSIDERED TOO SMALL AND WEAK TO DO ANY GOOD. THE SOCIAL-COMMUNIST REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND COMMUNAL ADMINISTRATIONS SET UP IN THE NORTH SINCE JUNE, 1975, HAVE ERASED ANY DOUBTS THESE WORKERS MIGHT HAVE HAD ABOUT THE PCI'S DEMOCRATIC IMAGE.

COMMENT: NOTEWORTHY ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION IS, FIRST, MONACO IS AN UNKNOWN TO THE CONGEN; SECOND, HE REQUESTED THE INTERVIEW; AND THIRD HE SEEMED PANICKY MORE OVER LOSING HIS PRESENT PERQUISITES IF THE PALERMO UNIT OF CISL FALLS APART THAN OVER

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ANY DEEP POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. JUST WHY MONACO CAME IS PUZZLING UNLESS HE, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, BELIEVES THE U.S. WOULD USE THIS INFORMATION TO HELP ITALY. CONGEN IS AWARE OF LEFTIST INFILTRATIONS IN THE PALERMO CISL AND ITS FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH THE D.C. CHIAVARINI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PALERM00058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760030-0734
From: PALERMO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760131/aaaabbjk.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH PALERMO CISL MAN
TAGS: PINT, IT, CISL
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006